



Institute of Communications Research Graduate Student Organization Statement on Prof. Steven Salaita

We, the members of the Institute of Communications Research Graduate Student Association, condemn the University's unjust firing of Dr. Steven Salaita and demand his immediate reinstatement.

As doctoral students, we represent a wide range of positions that serve to support and evolve UIUC as a Research I institution: research fellows, instructors, journalists, media makers, and students. However, the actions taken by Chancellor Wise and the Board of Trustees have seriously degraded the reputation of this University and eroded the advances made by its students and faculty. The administration's unilateral decision-making demonstrates a clear lack of faith in its own faculty, and the dubious and murky reasons for Prof. Salaita's firing signal a new regime of economically and politically motivated censorship at UIUC. As students who work at the intersections of critical cultural analysis, media practices and communication systems, and speech we often deal with controversial research. We find the position of "civility" taken by Chancellor Wise and the Board of Trustees a direct attack on our research, our ability to engage students in challenging conversations, and on the overall intellectual development of the UIUC student body.

The administration's blatant disregard for academic freedom, free speech, and shared governance has ignited a worldwide boycott of this campus, supported by thousands of scholars. It has led to the scrutiny of our commitment to critical discourse, social justice, and academic integrity. Therefore, we must make it unequivocally clear that the university administration does not take these actions in our name.

We proudly support the votes of no confidence coming from a wide variety of programs and departments, and reaffirm our belief in the autonomy of the American Indian Studies program and its faculty. We applaud the faculty and students whom have publicly announced their support for Prof. Salaita, academic freedom, and shared governance. Lastly, we urge the Departments of Advertising, Journalism, and Media & Cinema Studies, as well as the faculty of the Institute of Communications Research, to advance their own votes of no confidence in the Wise administration.

In Solidarity,

The Institute of Communications Research Graduate Student Organization